

Park extension in motion



• WDC Project Engineer Pune Brown and QRS Construction Supervisor Chris Baty oversee work on the skatepark extension.

The long-awaited extension to the Alexandra Park skate bowl is well and truly taking shape. Bad weather last month dampened progress for a short time, but sunnier skies have allowed the ground works to move ahead. Excavation and levelling work has been done, and

the focus has now shifted to the considerable amount of concreting work required to create the new ramp, rails and steps. The work is being carried out by contractors Quality Roding and Services (Wairoa) Ltd. WDC Project Engineer Pune Brown said the final plan was

a culmination of ideas from Wairoa's skating community and some careful budgeting. "There's a lot of anticipation for the finished product, so it's great to finally be turning this project into a reality," he said. The build is expected to be completed soon, depending on weather conditions.

Discover our community online

Both Māori and English are spoken fluently by 16.6 percent of the Wairoa District population, while 453 of us were born overseas. These interesting facts from the 2013 Census are among many more available on the Community Profile – a free information service offered by Wairoa District Council. The service, accessed via the WDC website, has recently been updated with full census information, including simple tables and explanatory notes. Administration Manager James Baty said this makes the profile an invaluable tool for anyone seeking knowledge, including businesses, potential investors, community groups, or students.

"Anyone seeking detailed, accurate statistics about who we are, how we live and what we do, can do so easily with this service," he said. "It also enables more informed decision-making about the delivery of services and facilities and provides solid evidence to build a compelling case when applying for funding or advocating for the community," he said. To access this free service, head online to www.wairoadc.govt.nz and click on the Community Profile icon on the home page.



FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 13 May
- 10 June
- 8 July
- 12 August

COUNCIL FORUM

- 27 May
- 24 June
- 22 July
- 26 August

MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE

- 30 May 2014
- 27 June 2014
- 25 July
- 29 August

Meetings and Forums are held at the Queen Street office council chambers, and are open to the public unless otherwise specified.



CONTACT US

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Microchip amnesty alert



An amnesty to ensure the dogs of our district are meeting legal requirements is set to begin this month.

WDC Animal Control will be out and about around the district over the coming months offering free dog microchipping, saving owners the cost of doing it themselves through a vet and removing the risk of considerable fines.

Team Leader Des Jane said the aim was to encourage responsible dog ownership, and make sure owners were meeting their obligations under the Dog Control Act 1996.

“All dogs over the age of three months must have a microchip implanted, with the exception of working dogs. This is required by the Act, as well as the WDC dog control policy, and has been since 2006” he said.

It is a simple process to install the microchip, which remains with the dog for its lifetime.

“It serves as a valuable identification tool, particularly if dogs are lost or stolen. It’s a national record, so even if dogs go missing outside the district, it’s possible to track owners,” he said.

In 2014 alone, three dogs have already been returned to owners residing outside the Wairoa District thanks to microchipping. All impounded dogs are microchipped and registered, if they

have not already been. The infringement fine for failing to microchip a dog is \$300.

The amnesty will begin in at the fire station in Tuai at 1pm on Sunday, May 11, and eventually cover the remainder of the district.

Owners are invited to bring their dogs to be microchipped free of charge by qualified staff.

Microchipping Schedule

Free dog microchipping sessions will take place at these locations. All are scheduled to begin at 1pm.

Tuai Fire Station, Sun, May 11

Raupunga Rest Area, Sun, May 18

Nuhaka Rest Area, Sun, May 25

Mahia Boating & Fishing Club, Sun, June 8

Frasertown Domain Hall, Sun, June 15

North Clyde War Memorial Park (helipad), Sun, June 22

Wairoa District Council rear carpark, Sun, June 29

↓ YOUR SPOT



If you have a photo or artwork that reflects the Wairoa community, we'd love to print it. Email tamsyn@wairoadc.govt.nz or post to PO Box 54, Wairoa 4160

Lake Waikaremoana was humming over the Easter break as people made the most of this place of incredible natural beauty, right on our doorstep. This photo shows a waterfall flowing off the Waihirere Bluffs, directly into the lake, and serves as an example of one of the many treasures we hold in our district.



Whakatauki/ PROVERB

Whāia te māramatanga me te aroha, e ngā iwi

Seek after knowledge and fellowship, all people

Wairoa District Council supports the goal of becoming an official bi-lingual district by 2040.

Strong future ahead for youth



• YROA YNOT Youth Voice Conference Co-ordinator Ngari Keefe and new Youth Co-ordinator Jonelle Woon.

A new injection of people and ideas is ensuring the team behind YROA YNOT Youth Voice continue to keep the group alive and active in the community. Since the council's youth initiative began in 2009, the momentum has continued to grow and attract a succession of willing people to take up the reins of the governance group. Youth Project Facilitator Allison Maru said a significant number left last year, but the group's policy on each person being responsible for finding their own replacement meant a seamless transition to a new crew.

"New people bring different skill sets, and different ideas. It is a change for us as co-ordinators, but we're always keen to get to know our new rangatahi," she said.

Another big change has been the addition of another youth co-ordinator, Jonelle Woon.

The former Wairoa College student spent last year in Wellington, where she gained a Certificate in

Youth Work. Personal circumstances saw her return to Wairoa, where she has wasted no time in putting her qualifications to good use.

As well as taking on the role of Youth Co-ordinator, Jonelle's commitment to Wairoa youth is reinforced through her voluntary contribution to the college's CACTUS group and Breakfast Club.

"New people bring different skill sets, and different ideas."

ALLISON MARU
YOUTH PROJECT FACILITATOR

"There is a lot of variety in the work I do, which is part of the attraction for me. Working with youth always brings an element of fun that you might not necessarily find in another job," she said.

Events such as the recent Kaupapa Rangatahi Conference held at Wairoa College are an example of the kind of work YROA

YNOT is committed to carrying out.

This national event attracted around 70 rangatahi/youth from around the North Island, offering inspiration with a focus on building networks and relationships.

YROA YNOT Youth Voice showcased the best Wairoa youth have to offer, through inspirational workshops, tools and resources developed by youth, set against a backdrop of fun. Mrs Maru said it provided a great opportunity to gain new and exciting skills and tools for the big wide world.

"It was also a chance to show off what we're doing here in Wairoa in terms of youth work, and for us to get new ideas from those who travelled here from other places," she said.

The ball has continued to roll for the YROA YNOT team, who are also involved in this year's Youth Week activities, May 17 to 22.

A continuing focus is the ongoing diving course, which is part of the larger Marine Programme to survey and

study the science behind the kaimoana at Mahia Peninsula.

Ms Woon said the course was going well, with 12 youth currently engaged in learning the fundamentals of diving. They were working hard in the build up to a visit to explore the Whangara Marine Reserve.

LITTLE BIT OF WAIROA @ i-SITE GIFT GALLERY

A treasure trove of locally-crafted products is proving popular at the Wairoa i-SITE. Manager Sally Simpson said the gift gallery had experienced steady sales, with items such as copper art, jewellery, candles, wood and flax goods attracting a lot of attention.

"Sales of homespun knitwear and honey are also picking up as the colder weather approaches," she said. "It's an opportunity for people to purchase a little bit of Wairoa."

Call in to the i-SITE on the corner of Paul and Queen Streets to view the range.

Bright lights for bridge

Big city lights are soon to grace Wairoa in the form of six new lighting features on bridge.

The low power LED in brilliant blue are more than just an interesting fixture – they also serve as flag poles to showcase messages from the district, to the district. WDC Economic Development Officer Roz Thomas said the modern flagpoles were an Upstream Wairoa initiative, with additional funding from WDC, the Endeavour Community Foundation and the Eastern and Central Community Trust. “Not only do these lights look great, they also make our flags a true 24/7 marketing tool. Flags are

an increasingly popular way to market ideas and events, and have the added benefit of brightening up the town for residents and visitors,” she said.

Another bonus offered by the new system is that flags can be changed from the ground, which is a big win from a safety and resource point of view.

“The fact that one person can change the flags will mean a saving in time and money, which is always a plus for us.”

Should the town get tired of blue, the colour of the lights can be changed at minimal cost.

The Christmas lights can still be hung when the festive season approaches.

Staff farewell

A well-known council identity has switched off the calculator for the last time.

Sue Clough will be a familiar face to many who prefer to pay their bills over the counter. The Cashier/Creditors Clerk has been processing money in and money out of the council bank accounts for almost 27 years.

Originally employed as a typist, Sue very quickly found her aptitude for numbers made her the ideal candidate for the cashier position.

At that point, all transactions were processed in person. The invent of direct credit changed the nature of the job somewhat, but Sue saw this as a challenge.

“It meant I could take on the added role of creditor, and I’ve been doing both for the past 19 years now,” she said. Sue made the decision to retire some time ago, and is now enjoying having more time to indulge her passions of hiking and bird watching.



Spread the word to campers

A new dump station is now up and running at War Memorial Park carpark, off Freyberg Street on the northern side of the river. The service is free to use, and it is also free for self-contained vehicles to be parked overnight there for a maximum of three nights. For more information on freedom camping in the district, contact the i-SITE or WDC.

Mahanga meeting update

Members of the Mahanga community met with council staff and Mayor Craig Little during the Easter break to discuss the significant matters of formalising the Happy Jack’s crossing, maintenance of Hinerauri Stream and the future of the water supply. Around 50 people attended the meeting.

CEO welcomed

An official pōhiri for new CEO Fergus Power was held at Te Rauhina Marae on May 3. The community event was the first of several being organised throughout the district over the next month to encompass the respective takiwā represented within the Wairoa District Council.

ANZAC Day

WDC acknowledged the annual remembrance of our military endeavours via ceremonies throughout the district on Anzac Day. The New Zealand Army was represented by Wairoa resident Colonel Jeremy James Harker, while the Australian Army was represented by Warrant Officer Class Two Kenneth Lynn.

Derelict car disposal

Anyone with an old car to dispose of is reminded to take advantage of the landfill’s free disposal of derelict vehicles. As an added incentive, a \$10 credit will be provided.